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[C] Lebanon: The Lebanese Government has reportedly decided to allow the fedayeen freedom of action in its territory.

According to Egyptian newspapers, this decision was to have been revealed yesterday at the negotiations currently being conducted in Cairo by the Lebanese military delegation. General Bustani, head of the delegation, and President Hilu had consulted with one another before the decision was reached. Fedayeen representatives had still not reached Cairo yesterday as Fatah sources disclosed that the organization had reversed itself again and would not be sending representatives to the negotiations.

The short-lived truce proclaimed Tuesday ended yesterday when the fedayeen charged the government with violations. The fedayeen subsequently attacked the town of Rashaya, which overlooks the main road from the Syrian border to southern Lebanon. [redacted]

[redacted] the truce was broken when Syrian artillery units fired upon the fedayeen. This attack was intended by Syria to disrupt the negotiations between the Lebanese Army and the fedayeen and escalate the confrontation still further. [redacted]

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South Vietnam: Communist military units in many areas are being ordered to prepare for heavier fighting in the coming months.

Accumulating evidence points to mid-November as the probable opening of the enemy's winter-spring campaign. Prisoner interrogations, agent reports, and captured documents have stated repeatedly that preparations should be completed by 15 November--the beginning of the lunar "winter" season.

Some accounts of enemy intentions this year resemble the grandiose plans unearthed prior to last year's winter-spring campaign, but many of those alleged plans were never actually implemented. Available evidence suggests that the Communists are giving increased attention to countering the government's pacification program and to sapper and guerrilla tactics. They appear at the same time to be keeping their regular forces mentally prepared for increased military activity later in the campaign.

The opening round of a new enemy offensive most likely will be limited to periodic surges of light shelling and occasional ground attacks. This would be similar to the pattern of the enemy's summer campaign.

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Cuba: Castro remains unyielding in his unrealistic commitment to produce ten million tons of sugar in the 1970 harvest.

In a speech last Monday kicking off the main phase of the harvest, Castro reiterated that the target would be achieved, emphasizing that there is more than enough cane to produce ten million tons of sugar. Moreover, he placed the burden for meeting the goal on the "workers and leadership cadres," which may be intended to shift the blame from himself and his administration if the harvest is a failure. He also indicated that there would be no slackening in the pace of industrialization in the next ten years, which suggests that the Cuban consumer can expect little relief from rationing and shortages of food, clothing, and other goods.

It appears that the harvest will fall far short of the ten million ton goal and may not even surpass the existing record of 7.2 million tons produced under Batista in 1952. Castro announced that the first phase of the harvest, which began on 14 July, produced only 126,000 tons of sugar, less than a third of his goal for this phase. [redacted]

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Venezuela: Renewed student violence has added to the Caldera government's difficulties.

Radical university students in Caracas have demonstrated against the recent death of a fellow extreme leftist while he was in police custody. The police handled demonstrations earlier in the week with restraint, but an exchange of gunfire resulted in at least one death. Some high school students marched through the streets of Caracas, and students in at least three provincial cities have joined in the protest. Troops were employed yesterday to end the violence on one campus. A teachers' strike now under way adds to the pressures on the government.

These incidents will contribute to the Caldera government's falling prestige. The armed forces, already unhappy with the President's handling of insurgency, were alarmed by a flurry of guerrilla activities late last month. Caldera's Christian Democratic Party lacks a Congressional majority, which has caused continuing turmoil in the Congress.

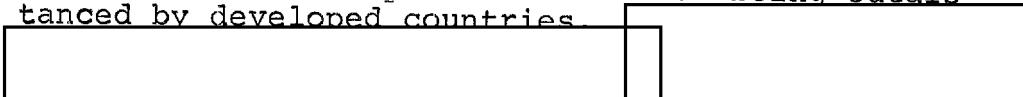
If the student and teacher protests continue and spread, pressures will grow rapidly for the government to use strong measures to suppress them.

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UN: The debate on the peaceful exploitation of the seabeds which begins today in the political committee will raise some contentious issues, but it is doubtful this session of the General Assembly will approve any substantive resolution on the subject.

Afro-Asian and Latin American delegations, attempting to preserve their opportunities for commercial exploitation of the seabeds, are discussing numerous resolutions for presentation to the UN seabeds committee. A draft resolution by Kuwait, being debated by the Afro-Asian group, contains some strong language that may eventually be moderated by other delegations. The draft calls for international machinery for "controlling the uses of" seabeds which lie beyond national jurisdiction.

Certain Latin American delegations are quietly working on a resolution which would have the General Assembly oppose exploration and exploitation of the seabeds beyond national jurisdiction until a system of international regulation is established. Less developed countries have long felt that such a moratorium could protect them from being outdistanced by developed countries.



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East Germany - West Germany: Pankow's protest over Chancellor Brandt's plan to visit West Berlin today was routine in nature, and does not mean that the East Germans have decided to respond negatively to Brandt's recent policy statement. The protest issued by the Foreign Ministry is relatively mild, calling Brandt's visit a "regrettable attempt" to continue the unsuccessful Berlin policies of previous Bonn governments. It made no threats against or claims on the city. [redacted]

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India: Prime Minister Gandhi will face her Congress Party opponents again this weekend at a session of the organization's governing working committee. In a bid to control the party machinery, Mrs. Gandhi's supporters plan to present the committee with a petition that would force old guard Congress boss Nijalingappa from the party presidency. The old guard, now fragmented and on the defensive, is ill-prepared to meet this further threat to its slipping hold on the party. Mrs. Gandhi may want to offer the "bosses" a face-saving device but, even in the name of party unity, she is unlikely to make a real compromise. [redacted]

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Kenya: The government has banned the only opposition party, the Kenya People's Union (KPU). All of the KPU's leaders, most of whom are from the Luo tribe, were arrested earlier this week after the government charged that they had instigated the anti-Kenyatta disturbances last Saturday. The dissolution of the KPU will further heighten tension between the Luo and Kenyatta's Kikuyu tribe, and leaves the Luo with little political representation. It also means that Kenyatta's party, dominated by the Kikuyu, will win all the seats in the next parliamentary elections, which will probably be held in a few months. [redacted]

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Ecuador: Four students have now been killed in disorders that began in mid-October with the closing of a Guayaquil high school after the students had insulted President Velasco. Violence has spread from Guayaquil to most of Ecuador's major cities as student agitators exploit the issue among young people. The government has decided to reopen the school, but unrest is likely to continue. The present conditions are approaching those that caused Velasco's ouster eight years ago.

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